

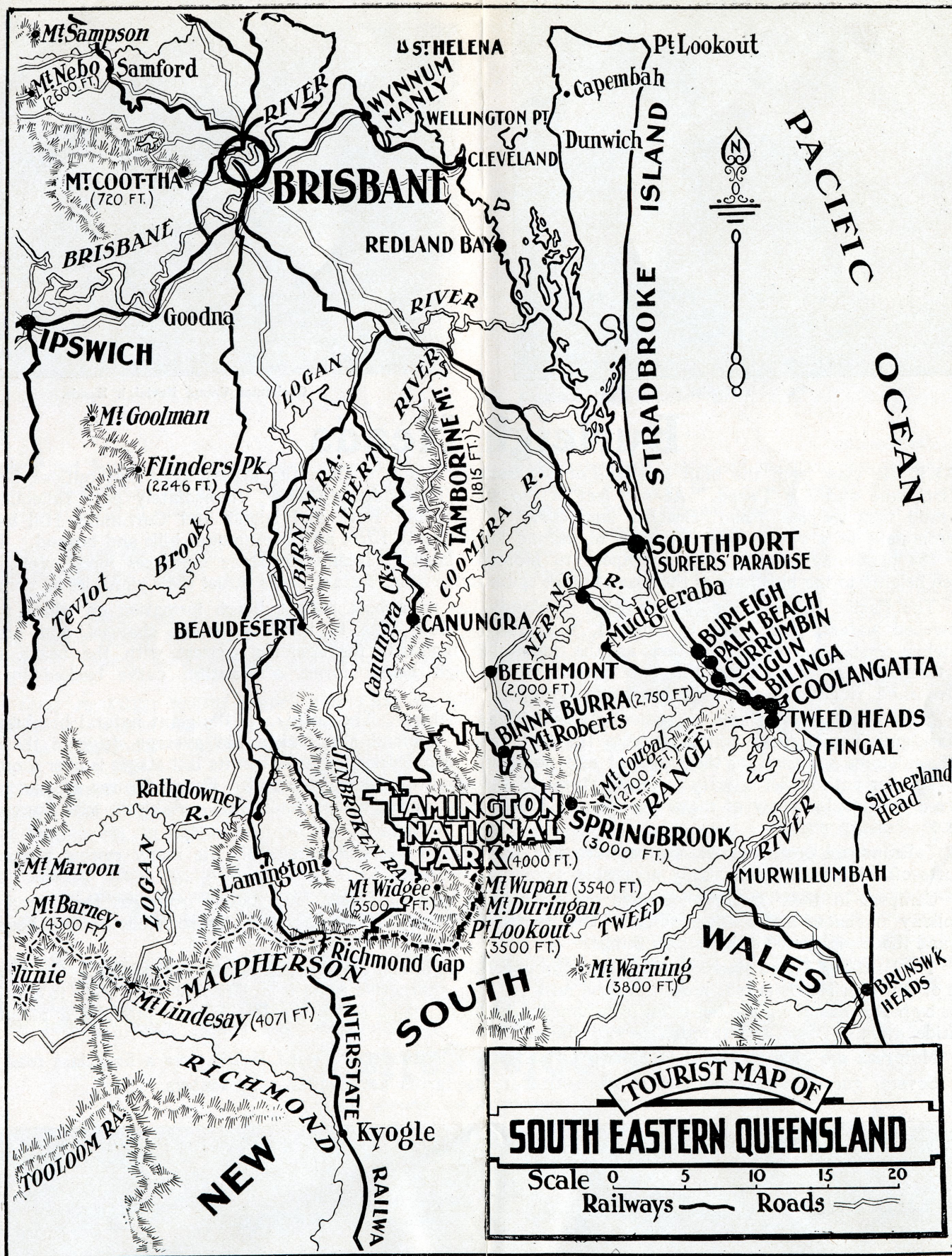
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PEARLS OF THE PACIFIC

SURFING RESORTS
SOUTH OF BRISBANE

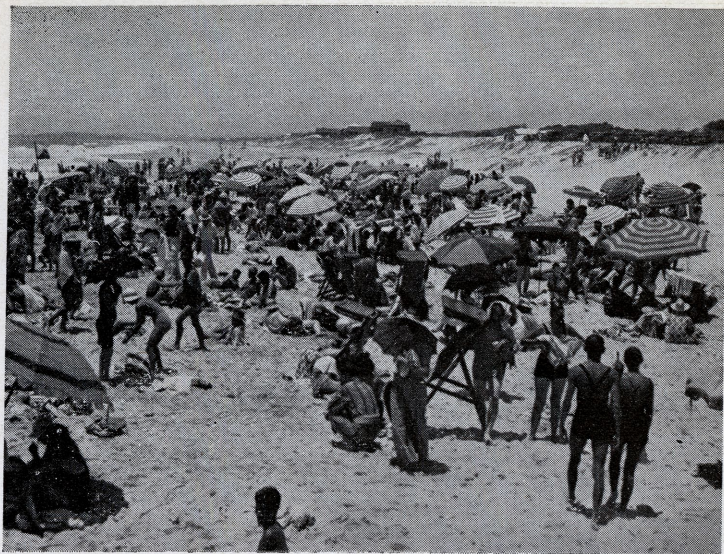


Queensland

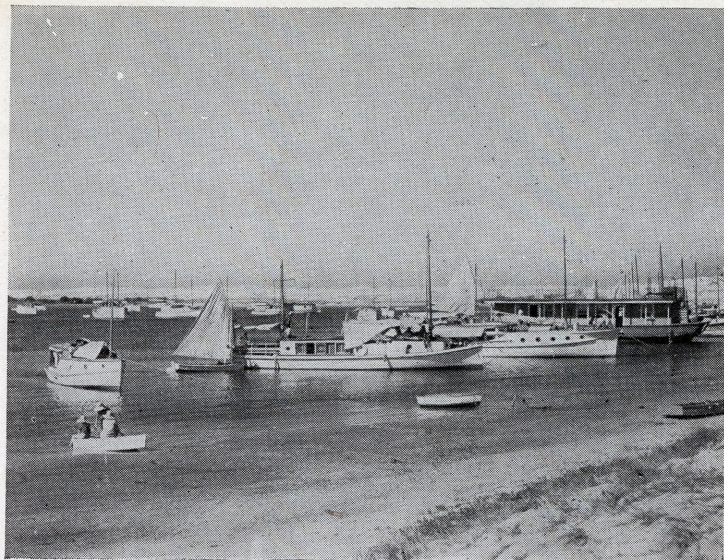


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JOHN OXLEY LIBRARY
 PEARLS OF THE PACIFIC : SURFING
 RESORTS SOUTH OF BRISBANE,



On Main Beach, Southport.



Nerang River, Southport.

Southport

SOUTHPORT is the meeting-place of the waters of ocean, bay, and river—a long sand ridge from an island, a white sandspit from the mainland, with the tides of Nerang River entrance dividing their shining beaches. The waters of an ample boat passage to Moreton Bay to the north join, before the attractive Esplanade of Southport, the wide Nerang estuary to the south.

A more varied and beautiful marine environment would be difficult to imagine than these broad and many miles long waters of sheltered loveliness and calm:

“Within, the waves in softer murmurs glide,
And boats secure, without their hawsers ride.”

Southport's high place among Brisbane's oceanside residential and holiday areas was well founded on its variety of aquatic charms long before the twentieth century's rediscovery of the joys of surfing. But the emphasis on dancing waves and white-plumed ocean rollers only confirmed Southport's advantage in having the nearest beaches by rail and road to the metropolis.

The Main Beach at Southport has a good, lively surf. This long, slightly curving beach extends for many miles past the picturesque resort of Surfers' Paradise at Meyer's Ferry towards Little Burleigh. We found Surfers' Paradise justify its name by providing broad, high rollers, regular in their strength and lifting power.

Off Stradbroke Island the extensive beaches give excellent surfing at favoured points. At Currigee, a premier spot for picnics, with good shelter trees and cool nooks, any bright day with a freshening sea has the added surfing pleasure of “coming in on the rollers.”

The enclosed baths off the Southport Town Council's long, concrete pier give swimmers the easiest and safest sea bathing. This pier also has a picture palace and dance hall of impressive size and appointments. Promenaders and anglers make daily use of the pier.

The salubrity of Southport has been endorsed by educational institutions which value health highly.

The charm of the green, fertile lands on the upper reaches of the Nerang, and the ever-changing shores of Moreton Bay and its necklace of islands, make motor-boating excursions highly favoured. Combined with a good day's fishing, we could not ask for anything better.

One of the best long trips is that past Currigee, threading a way by wooded islands along the broad, then narrowing boat passage as islands take their toll of the waters, to the highly interesting Jumpin Pin. This was the scene of the wreck of the barque “Cambus Wallace,” 1,651 tons, bound from Glasgow to Brisbane, in September, 1894. Five out of six men who lost their lives in this tragedy were buried on Jumpin Pin, but in May, 1898, the ocean still pursued them, and when it swirled over the narrow sand ridges at Jumpin Pin their grave was broken through and their remains carried away by the raging waters not to be seen again.



Jubilee Bridge, Southport.



Church of England School for Boys, Southport.

Surfers' Paradise

JUMPIN PIN, the well-divided waters near the mouth of the Coomera and its several islands various Creeks and surfing beaches and suitable points in the Nerang River and boat passage near Southport, are the principal fishing grounds. Bream, whiting, flathead, garfish, jew, snapper, tailor, bonito, rock cod, parrot, and occasionally big groper are included in the catches. The enormous shoals of mullet in May bound for bay, rivers, and creeks, and followed with great slaughter by preying big fish and birds, make a remarkable spectacle on this coast.

The Pacific Cable Station, which gives service with Norfolk Island and America, is at the southern end of the Esplanade.

Southport is a clean and well-built town. In late years the municipal authorities have spent £40,000 on bitumen roads within the town boundaries, and the State expenditure on improvement of roads near Southport has been over £150,000. There is electric lighting, and Southport Council has recently installed a water supply at a cost of £60,000. Main Beach has its large parking areas, and improved bathing facilities include patrols watching the beaches during holiday times.

Southport has its bowling green, golf links, and tennis courts. Visiting players have these facilities made available on payment of small weekly or daily fees. Two theatres and dance halls provide evening entertainments. At Christmas and other big holiday times visitors enter into and enjoy the spirit of carnival that pervades Southport and its thousands of merrymakers, who don fancy costumes and sing and dance on the pavements.

Of South Coast surfing centres, Southport is in handiest distance of the mountain retreats of Springbrook, Tamborine, Canungra, Beechmont, and National Park. Diverting short trips can be made along the Nerang and Coomera River valleys and to the green, fertile country of Merrimac, Benowa, and Mudgeeraba.

So confident is public opinion in the future of Southport and the glorious ocean frontage to Burleigh that most of the land for the ten miles has been subdivided into allotments. Many seaside homes have been built.

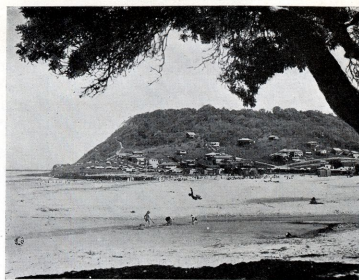
Southport has a most genial and equable climate, and like other Queensland beaches surfing can be enjoyed winter and summer. While we watched scores of surfers having their afternoon dive through the breakers, or turning in and riding on the rollers, one day in late May a number of young men were playing football on the beach; so in this glorious sunshine—

From November to May, and May to November,
Are the months for surfing, be good to remember.

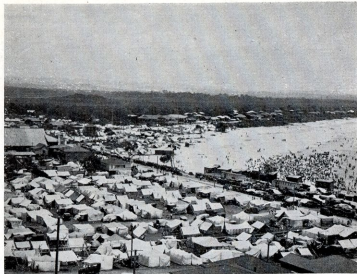
Southport is fifty miles by rail from Brisbane and a good train service is provided daily. A first-class bitumen road is available to motorists.

Numerous guest houses and several hotels offer accommodation and tariffs to suit the varying needs of visitors.

Surfers' Paradise, three miles south of Southport, is connected by a good road and a frequent bus service provides communication. The hotel is situated close to the beach and has as appendages, an attractive garden, and interesting private zoo. Visitors are assured of comfortable accommodation and good service.



Burleigh Heads.



Christmas Camp, Burleigh Heads.

Burleigh Heads

TAKE the view from the bluff headland of Big Burleigh and it is from the highest oceanside outlook between Brisbane and the Tweed. At our feet is the wide Tallebudgera Creek. Immediately past Tallebudgera's sand bars we see Palm Beach's long curve. Currumbin Rock and Currumbin Hill balcony are prominent in a sweep over ten miles of marine loveliness to Kirra and Greenmount hills and beyond. To the north the panorama extends over Southport to Moreton Island. Inland the scene embraces forest, valley, and wooded heights to the blue haze of the coastal range spurs above which distant peaks thrust their pinnacles or domes.

The Pacific between the two Burleigh forelands has an almost perfect beach formation on which to cast its jewelled waters, pale green to emerald, turquoise to deep blue in their opalescent changes, and breaking into white-crested waves and rollers as the inevitable moments for spuming contest with the beach arrive. Less than two miles between the two headlands, Burleigh Beach forms a beautiful curve backed by high, massive sand ridges covered with beachside scrub.

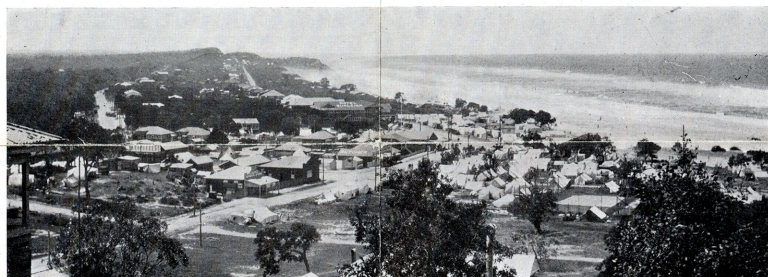
Big Burleigh surfing area is particularly safe for all bathers. The position of the giant natural breakwater of big dark-grey basalt rocks which protects the feet of the foreland also makes the average drive of the waves of sufficient force and snap for the practised and powerful. Big Burleigh's ascent in its last stages is over a quaintly pretty boulder path under a leafy canopy natural to this finely-timbered headland. Facing the sea we particularly admire a spectacular array of massive columnar basalt rocks in lengths up to 20 feet. A kiosk, with dance floor, caters for holiday makers.

Tallebudgera Creek's quiet waters have fine fishing and oystering grounds. Its many rowing boats make all parts of the broad waters easily accessible.

Campers in their merry thousands make Burleigh and adjoining long beach frontages their rendezvous for holiday diversions and seaside jollity. These tented temporary homes offer the utmost freedom from household cares and the trivial round of humdrum things.

The Brisbane-Tweed Heads Railway runs through Burleigh, and a daily train service is available. The oceanside resort of Burleigh Heads is four miles from the railway. An alternative route from Brisbane is by train to Southport, thence by motor bus along the ten miles of bituminised highway which skirts the Pacific and provides a picturesque oceanside drive. There is a through service daily.

Motorists are able to travel to Burleigh Heads from Brisbane or Tweed Heads over a first-class road. Several guest houses and two hotels with varying tariffs are available to visitors.



The Township and Beach, Burleigh Heads.

Coolangatta

LET us regard Greenmount, Flagstaff Hill, and the boulder-footed, rock-ledge Point Danger as once an island in the old-time fortunes of this changing coast line. Then with the sea sweeping round the present Tweed River bed and out to Kirra Hill and the ridge to high Razorback, the magic of glorious Coolangatta, its incomparable crescent-shaped bay, shining sands, and piled ridges and alluring surfing beaches, with the noble Tweed River in the background, is revealed.

Should there ever be a ceremonial day for paying homage to Neptune for all the blessings of the gods showered on these splendid shores south from Brisbane and beyond the Tweed, Coolangatta must be the venue.

We early have full promise of that comfortable prospect by a wide view of the ocean between Tugun and Bilinga, a couple of miles from Coolangatta.

This growing town's population of 3,000 increases to over 10,000 at the height of the surfing season. Since emphasis has been put on the fact that the use of a first-class surfing area adds a new pleasure to sea-bathing, Coolangatta has made extraordinary progress, remarkable indeed when we note how many highly-endowed beaches South Queensland, the Florida of Australia, possesses.

Greenmount and Kirra have both helped largely to build up Coolangatta's reputation for safety and yet provide the type of "break" that makes the keen surfer forget that time passes. A strong sea or half-gale off Kirra Beach will see rollers lively enough to carry taut-bodied surfers thirty or forty yards, and that without the aid of a surf-board.

From Kirra Hill northwards to Currumbin new centres, Tugun and Bilinga, have made the four-mile beach from Kirra almost a continuous town. We looked from our hotel balcony one starry night, and the lights on Greenmount and Flagstaff Hill were merely the southern extension of six miles of twinkling gleams to Kirra, Tugun, and Currumbin Hill.

Coolangatta has electric lighting. Coolangatta Council has added to the town's natural advantages by provision of shelters and seats, improved roads, and drainage. Each beach has its life-saving club fully appointed. Everything is done to promote the safety and pleasure of bathers.

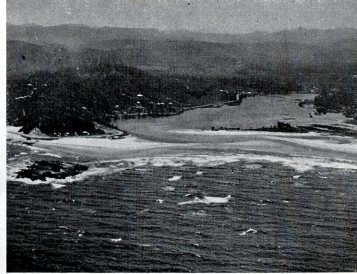
For the many who still see the virtue of walking exercise, Coolangatta has great variety in short tours. Point Danger, named by Captain Cook in 1770, is a pleasant stroll of a couple of hours by the Tweed to where the dark-grey basaltic rocks and sea level platforms, the most easterly point of Queensland, take the heavy ravaging punishment of angry ocean moods.



Life Saving Display, Coolangatta.



Kirra Beach, Coolangatta.



Currumbin from the Air.



Currumbin Creek.

Palm Beach—Currumbin

THREE miles of clean, hard sand, a shining road that invites us to brisk morning walk—that is Palm Beach's first attraction. It is ideally situated between Tallebudgera and Currumbin Creeks, so residents and visitors can easily enjoy the advantages of both neighbouring resorts. A walk from Currumbin to Tallebudgera Creek is a pedestrian pleasure of the first rank.

The completion of the bitumen road from Southport-Burleigh to Currumbin has enhanced these benefits. Palm Beach has made much progress as a residential seaside area, as our beach stroll and return drive along the bush-lined road reveals. Eleanora Railway Station is only half a mile from the beach, and here seaside-bound train travellers get their first peep at the ocean surges.

Palm Beach is the resort that stands for the maximum of restfulness and peace. It has most points of contact with Currumbin's green rectangular hill slopes and tree-fringed, ample creek waters, and Currumbin environment is the last word in quiet beauty and arcadian charm.

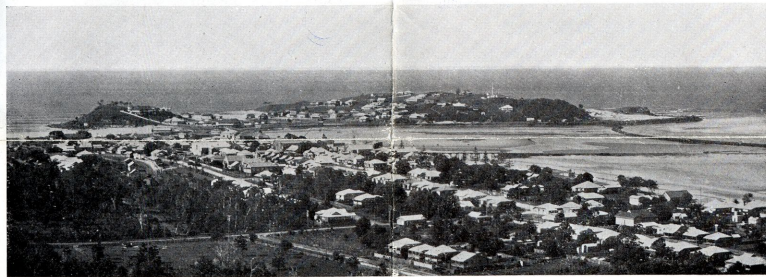
The shallows and sand ridges of Currumbin Creek a few hundred yards from the entrance make it possible to wade across to Palm Beach. Boats are available, and the bridge is close, with Currumbin Railway Station only a mile away.

Currumbin Creek's restrained, smooth waters have a special call to swimmers who like a dip away from the "break" of the wild waves. For family parties, women and children, Currumbin Creek's swimming pools and clean sand bars leave nothing lacking in salt-water bathing enjoyment.

Currumbin scenery is strikingly pretty. Elephant Rock, and then the northern guardian of the brief but fine surfing beach, Currumbin Rock, half a mile away near Currumbin Creek, swing into a picture that has a neat, compact village directly facing the blue Pacific and the regular beat of the white-topped rollers as they boom along the shore, only a few hundred yards away and parallel to the high hillside that runs the full length of the beach between the two rocks. For pictorial delight in miniature, Nature has done few things finer than Currumbin.

A stroll over the boulder-strewn Currumbin Hill provides splendid views seaward and to the ranges. A walk or drive along the creek side to the railway station, with the green hill slopes flanking the way, fishing excursions and picnicking trips up the creek are a few of the available diversions.

Currumbin is situated sixty-four miles by rail from Brisbane, and is served by comfortable trains. An alternative route from Brisbane is by train to Southport, thence by motor bus along the fifteen miles of Pacific Highway. A daily service is provided for booked passengers. Good roads are available to motorists from Brisbane or the Queensland border. A hotel and several guest houses offer accommodation for visitors.



Tweed Heads from Razorback.

Tweed Heads

AVISIT to Tweed township reveals that a federated Australian still has the anomaly of a double-fenced buffer area between States. Razorback is the highest hill near Coolangatta and gives a fine view. To those active ones who wish a longer "hike," there is the inviting beach to Currumbin, or Tweed River's broad reaches.

Trips by tourist service cars number Cobaki, Bilambil Valley, and Terranora Lakes, Murwillumbah (and Palm Island), Byron Bay (by Burringbar Range), and others along the Tweed River Valley and beyond.

Cane-fields and bananas are features of the short trip to Cudgen Heads and Fingal Lighthouse, which stands on a basaltic headland whose apparently chiselled, columnar rock guardians resemble the "Giant's Causeway" of the Irish Coast. A close-up view of these remarkable rocks is obtained at a "boiling pot" where the sea between the nearby Cook Island and the mainland foams in and throws white, hissing spray from the thunderous impact fifty feet high.

On the Tweed trips and also to Currumbin the outstanding Mount Warning, with its highest peak at the sea end and its outline like the face of a man lying down, is seen at every turn.

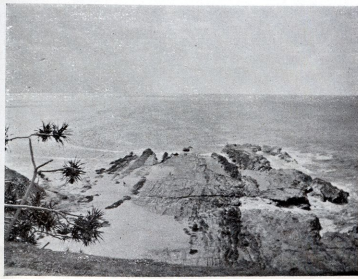
Boating, motor boating, and fishing on the wide Tweed, and deep-sea fishing—all the aquatic pleasures are added to the best of surfing. Deep-sea mullet, barracouta, snapper, bream, and mackerel are plentiful. Coolangatta has a bowling green, golf links, and tennis courts, with good theatres and dancing halls.

Few seaside places are so actually by the sea and of the sea as famed Coolangatta. All ocean-going peoples have the desire for the broad seas, and with the tang of the ocean and the quickening of its influence that Coolangatta of the sandy sea neckland particularly gives us, we may apostrophize with Childe Harold:

"And I have loved thee, Ocean! and my joy
Of youthful sports was on thy breast to be
Borne, like thy bubbles, onward; from a boy
I wanted with thy breakers—they to me
Were a delight.
For I was, as it were, a child of thee"

The twin towns of Coolangatta and Tweed Heads are sixty-nine miles from Brisbane and are served by trains daily. Good roads radiate from these resorts to Brisbane and the north-eastern districts of New South Wales.

The accommodation available ranges from modern first-class hotels to the modest guest house, and these are numerous. The visitor, therefore, is assured of a tariff with accommodation and service best suited to his requirements.



Point Danger, Tweed Heads.

Travel Service



ALL the South Coast resorts mentioned in this publication are accessible by rail and within a few hours journey of Brisbane. Timetables, with particulars of routes, transportation costs, and accommodation tariffs, are published before each summer season, and may be obtained upon application at Offices of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau.

To encourage travel in Queensland and assist *bona fide* holiday-makers, the Bureau issues combined transportation and accommodation tickets from Brisbane to Southport, Burleigh Heads, Currumbin, Coolangatta, and Tweed Heads. Purchasers of these inclusive tickets secure concession rail fares and relief from the irksome details associated with travel.

Transportation and accommodation reservations are made by the Bureau without cost to the purchaser except in urgent cases when recourse to the public telephone is necessary.

To secure the free service and reduced rail fares, intending holiday-makers must book their transportation and accommodation at the Government Tourist Bureau. They may select the hotel or guest house they desire, provided it is one of the accommodation houses approved by the Bureau.

Payment for the accommodation required may be made in full at the Tourist Bureau if the period of stay is definite; otherwise an amount of not less than £1 per head must be deposited towards the cost of accommodation, in which case the balance must be paid to the hotel or guest house proprietor.

Coupons issued by the Bureau for payments received will be accepted at approved hotels and guest houses in full or part payment, as the case may be, for accommodation. The full cost of return rail and road transportation must be paid at the Tourist Bureau before an inclusive ticket is issued.

Rail tickets supplied by the Tourist Bureau are available for return within twenty-eight days of the date of issue. Visitors from Southern States who travel under the Interstate Rebooking System may use their Rebooking Orders in payment or part payment for these inclusive holiday excursions and obtain the benefit of the concession rail fares from Brisbane.

For further information consult the

Queensland Government Tourist Bureau

Martin Place
SYDNEY

George Street, Brisbane

Collins Street
MELBOURNE

and at Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns

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DAVID WHYTE, Government Printer, Brisbane.